

A True
RELATION
Of what hapned at
BEDFORD,

On Munday last, *Aug. 19.* instant,

WHILE

Thundering, Lightning, and Tempestuous
Winds tore up the Trees by the Roots, the
Gates off the Hinges, Breaking them in
pieces, Driving down Houses,

To the Terror and Amazement of the
INHABITANTS;

As by this

NARRATIVE

will more at large appear,

Attested by several Ey-witnesses.

With Allowance.

LONDON.

Printed for *Fra. Smith* at the Elephant and Castle without
Temple-Bar, and *R. Taylor* at the *Crown in*
Stile Britain 1672.

RELATION

BEDFORD.

On Monday last, Aug. 19, instant.

PRINTED BY J. JOHNSON, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD, LONDON.
DAY 28, 1813
FOR SUBSCRIPTION
ENGLISH HISTORICAL TRACTS

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To the Terror and Amusement of the
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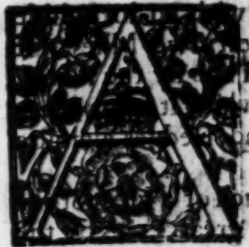
CHILD ALLOWANCE.

LONDON:

Printed for F. & J. Wain at the Elephant and Castle without
Temple Bar, and R. Taylor at the Crown in
Little Britain 1813.



**A True Relation of what hapned at
Bedford on Monday last 19 Instant,
while Thundering, Lightning, and
Tempestuous Winds tore up the Trees
by the Roots, the Gates off the
Hinges, &c.**



Ever my hearty love to your
Self and Family presently
We have acquainted you
from this part to acquaint
you with 19 For on Monday
last, the Nineteenth of this
Instant almost all day in our
Town of Bedford, has been
hid and Unheard of Tem-
pest, with much Terrible Thunder, Rain, and
Lightning; so the general Assent and Terrors

of all the Inhabitants, beginning about one o'clock in the afternoon, and continuing for about halfe an houre, in this time, I threw the other four Guns off the Mines into the Street, and after it had whirled them there, up and down, as if they had been a Foot-Ball, at brake them to pieces. It drove a Coach in the Lane Yard from the back of the Church, plucked the Cellardoor, which is the ral Poles from thence: It carried a great Tree from beyond the River, over our Pauls Steeple, as if it had been a Bundle of Feathers; it threw down Mr. Greer's Stack of Corn of well nigh Threecore Load, breaking to pieces the Carts that were under it, much of the Corn being carried no Man knows whether.

In Offell-land the violence was such, it bore down two Houses in an instant, to the great amazement of the Spectators, that blessed be God, escaped maiming, yet knew not where to flee for shelter, but to run too and fro like persons amazed. In one of our Gardens it rook up the Onion and Radish Beds by the Roots, and with an extraordinary violence, carrying them almost two Miles. It plucked up a large Apricot Tree by the Roots, and rent it from the Wall, on which it was nailed, and carried it over Houses and Hedges almost a quire of six Miles.

At Chedworth it broke down much of a great Stone Wall, and plucked up several great Trees by the Roots, and carried one of them almost a Furlong. Also there it did pluck up a Quickset Hedge by the Roots, and so tore and mangled it, that it lay

all in Tazles, as if it had been Bushes, Tops, and Roots together.

It brought a large Tree from some place unknown, and set it upright in a Field belonging to the Swan Inn, striking the Roots of it nigh a Foot into the Ground; and thence plucked it up again and carried it some certain paces further; It tore also many Arms from the Trees, carrying them quite over the River.

The Rose Inn Gates it throw off the Hinges into the middle of the Street. The Maiden-head Inn Gates it served in like manner, and broke them to pieces. It took up about a Load of great Rushes, carrying them from the place where they stood, and left many of them, no Mortal knows where.

Mr. Cressy our Lawyer, hath also received much hurt by this Strange Tempest, which came also to John Rythes Shop, driving his Sieves, Pales, and other Wooden Ware up and down the Streets, making a heavy clattering, scarce to be credited. The Head-Hostler at the Swan Inn and his Man was constrained to fix themselves to a Post, otherwise they had been carried away by this violence.

At the aforesaid Mr. Rythes there was Trees of Twenty Inches square rent in pieces; the Church called Saint Peters, is much damaged also; the Church called Saint John hath met with share in this Tempest: The Head-Hostler at the Swan Inn, where they was a Brewing, as he was going to open the Furnace door, the Tempest came and clapt the Brew-house door, and the Furnace door together

together with that force, as if it had broke them to pieces, in so much, that it whirled the Fire from under the Furnace, and the Flame seized on the Roof of the House, setting it on fire, but he being careful, with Water speedily quenched it; else they had, in all probability, with many more Houses of the Neighborhood, been destroyed, had not this timely application intercepted.

It is credibly reported, That at the Town of *Liddlington*, Five miles from hence, much hurt was done, and two Hay-Cocks was turned upside down, and carried away.

Woburne also, as we are informed, felt something of this terrible Tempest, some Houses in that Town being levelled with the Ground by it. It is reported by Passengers upon the Road, that they see a great combustion in the Air, the Clouds, as it were, fighting one against another, insomuch, that they thought at a distance the Town of *Redford* was on a light fire.

To be brief, the danger for the time it lasted was such, That the people scarce knew where to be in safety from the violence of the storm, while the Tiles rent from many Houses, thrown as with a strong Hand, about the Streets with many other dreadful Accidents, as by the next you may receive further account.

POST.

POSTSCRIPT.

IT is very remarkable, That all this did not much harm upon any person, save in the Terror of it, sufficiently great, one Man excepted that was hurt with a piece of a Timber. And also it is very observable, that what was of least strength, or most exposed, as the Glass-Windows, Signs and Sign-Posts, received such inconsiderable harm, as is scarce to be credited, considering the strength of the Gates it tore down, with the Trees of great bulk, whose fastned Roots were soon pulled up.

Near Justice Barbers Grounds, was a Stone Wall blown down, and such breaches made, that two Carts a beast might go thorow; Twenty of the said Justices Houset Elm were torn up by the Roots, and the violence was so great, that it cleared his Orchard of most of his Fruit-Trees, much of the Fruit blown into a Meadow on the other side of the River *Ouse*. A Tanners Man coming over the Bridge, was taken up from the Ground, and hardly escaped blowing over the Bridge, insomuch that he fell upon his Belly, and crawled away upon his Hands and Knees. It blew down several Houses at the farther end of the Town, and removed one House two yards out of its place, and set the Threshold where the middle of the House was before. It blew also many several Stacks of Hey which are not yet to be found. A Woman sitting by her fire, had her Chimney blown away, and she removed

in the middle of the House, without any other apparent hurt, save the amazement. A Fisherman had a great Pile of Flage carried away, which after two days search was found in *Pulney* Pastors, two miles distant from the said Fishermans House.

This dreadful Tempest began with a great Darkness, and lasted half an hour, accompanied with extraordinary Cleps of Thunder and Lightning, insomuch, that the People of the adjacent places, did believe the whole Town of *Bedford* to be on a light flame.

These worthy and Credible Testimonies, with Thousands more, were Eye-witness that might be inserted, take as followeth.

Anthony Mathews Mayor.
John Gardener Recorder.
James Becket Alderman.
John W. W.
 of the River Ouse. A ...
 the Bridge was ...
 that fell ...
 his Hands and Knees. It blew down several Houses at the farther end of the Town, and removed one House two yards out of its place. The Third hold where the mill was before.
 It blew also many several stacks of Hay which are not yet to be found. A Woman lying by her fire had her Chimney blown away and the removed

FINIS.

